

4C 4461 (1) TODMORDEN

BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE

YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31ST, 1923.

PRESENTED APRIL, 1924.

TODMORDEN:

J. Bentley & Sons, Printers, etc., Albion Works, Halifax Road.

BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN.

REPORT OF MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH, 1923.

Health Committee—

ALDERMAN J. H. SUTCLIFFE (Chairman), COUNCILLOR
GOUCKE, HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR (ALD. PICKLES),
ALDERMEN T. GREENWOOD, W. GREENWOOD, ORMEROD, J.P.,
COUNCILLORS KING, NAESMITH, NEWELL, H. SUTCLIFFE,
WALTON, WOODHEAD.

List of Sub-Committees of Health Committee—

Sewage Work Management Sub-Committee, Horse and Yard
Sub-Committee, Baths and Cemetery Sub-Committee,
Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee.

Medical Officer of Health—

CECIL L. WILLIAMS, B.Sc., Hons. Lond : L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S.
Eng. : D.P.H. Camb. : M.R.San. I. : F.R.I.P.H.



BOROUGH OF TODMORDEN.

Public Health Department,
Roomfield,
Todmorden,

March 20th, 1924.

To His Worship the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1923.

In accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Health this Report will be an ordinary report.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

CECIL L. WILLIAMS.

PART A. SECTION 1.**GENERAL STATISTICS.**

Area, (acres)—12,770.

Population, 23,980.

Number of inhabited houses, 6,700.

Number of families or separate occupiers—Houses generally occupied by one family only.

Rateable value, £147,617.

Sum represented by Penny Rate—£500.

PART A. SECTION 2.**EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR.****Births.**

Legitimate—Males, 159 ; Females, 174.

Illegitimate—Males, 11 ; Females, 7.

Total—Males, 170 ; Females, 181.

Birth Rate (R.G.) 14.63.

Deaths—304.

Death Rate (R.G.) 12.68.

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of childbirth from Sepsis—1.

From other causes—1.

Deaths of infants under one year of age—Legitimate—16, Illegitimate—2, Total, 18. Equals 51.28 per 1,000 births.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)—Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)—3.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)—2

The Infant Mortality Rate is the ratio expressed as so many per 1,000 between the number of children dying under the age of one year, and the number of births in any given period.

This year it is the next to the lowest which has ever been recorded in Todmorden, and but for the fact that one such death has been recorded against us, which only technically could be ascribed to Todmorden, the parents not being Todmorden people and the baby never having lived in Todmorden, the Infant Mortality Rate would have been the lowest on record.

It is heartening to be able to record such an event but at the same time however it must be remembered that the number of births in Todmorden are not sufficiently large to prevent considerable fluctuation from year to year and that such a low rate has not the same significance in a small town as it has in a larger area.

The Nursing Service under the Council in Todmorden is unified.

There are two whole time nurses and one half time nurse, all of whom give their time both to Maternity and Child Welfare work and to School work.

Of this service the Health Committee is responsible financially for the equivalent of one whole time nurse.

For the combined duties the services of three nurses is a minimum so that at present you are under staffed.

I beg to advise you to consult with the Local Education Authority on the question of converting the half time appointment into a whole time appointment.

PART A. SECTION 3. NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING YEAR.

DISEASE.	Under 1 year.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 and over.	Cases Notified.	Cases Ad- mitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...
Diphtheria	1	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	...	3	3	...
Scarlet Fever	2	4	10	4	28	12	7	2	...	...	...	69	58	2
Enteric Fever (including Para Typhoid)	1	...	...	...	1	1	...
Puerperal Fever
Pneumonia	1	...	...	1	1	1	10	3	8	4	29	...	13
Other Diseases generally Notifiable :—															
Erysipelas	1	...	1	4	3	9	...	...
Acute Poliomyelitis	1	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Encephalitis Lethargica	1	...	1	...	1
Cerebral Spinal Meningitis

One case notified as C. S. Meningitis at autopsy was diagnosed Chronic Nephritis.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Age Period.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0.1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1.5	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
5.10	4	3	4	4	—	—	—	—
10.15	6	3	—	—	—	—	—	—
15.20	2	3	3	4	1	—	—	—
20.25	2	3	2	1	2	—	1	—
25.35	1	4	1	1	—	4	—	—
35.45	2	1	1	—	—	1	—	1
45.55	4	1	—	—	1	2	—	—
55.65	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 & upds.	2	1	—	—	2	—	—	—
Totals	26	21	12	10	6	7	2	3

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

Cases Notified—4. Treated at Home—1. In Hospital 3.

Vision unimpaired—4.

Vision impaired—0.

Total blindness—0.

Deaths—0.

PART A. SECTION 4.

Amongst children there has been a considerable amount of chicken pox, and whooping cough is constantly breaking out in minor epidemics.

Rickets are also prevalent.

Amongst adults Respiratory Diseases form one of the most serious problems which you have to face.

With regard to respiratory diseases Todmorden is geographically situated very badly indeed.

The citizens of Todmorden take a not unnatural pride in the grandeur of the lofty hills, between which nestle the homes in which they were born and to which they turn with longing and affection.

It is not uncommon for the scene from this vantage point or from that, to be compared more than favourably with some of the most beautiful scenery of the world, and the joy with which the people of Todmorden exult in the natural beauty of the valleys they inhabit is at once a romance and a tragedy.

To an authority responsible for curbing the incidence of respiratory diseases and reducing the rate of Infant Mortality, the winding valleys of Todmorden are so many dark and ill ventilated holes in the earth in which it is impossible either for young or old to pass their lives in their rightful heritage of health, and the houses however quaint and however beautified by romantic imagination, are nightmares to those who are responsible for maintaining the health of the people.

In such a nightmare the beautiful valleys of Todmorden filled with quaint houses of archeological interest, might form a fitting subject for the picture of the Pilgrimage of John Bunyon through the Valley of the Shadow of Death.

If anyone will but stand on any vantage points "On yon Tops" and look down on Todmorden he will see the smoke-laden atmosphere being whirled about in, but never escaping from the valleys. It is but rarely, and I have looked down hundreds of times, that I have seen Todmorden, even on a Sunday, except through a haze of heavy smoke. The tragedy which robs this sordid picture of even a gleam of sunshine, just as the hills of Todmorden rob its valleys of the sun is, that so many people are willing to have it so.

Here and there are those who realise the need, the crying need, for a new Todmorden to arise in which the people shall be housed very differently from what they are now, but these are voices crying in the wilderness.

It is only quite recently I have heard responsible people speaking as though the Housing position of Todmorden was "Noan sa bad" and as though just a mild tonic is wanted to ameliorate the condition.

The present condition can be likened to a case known commonly, although not technically, as a grumbling appendix. Something can be done with medicine and with diet but the patient can never be cured apart from the radical operation.

Until radical housing operations are carried out in Todmorden, rickets and all that that entails, including impaired growth, badly developed chests, and deformed pelvic bones, will be rife, and respiratory diseases, including consumption, will devastate the townspeople as they do to-day.

PART A. SECTION 5.

Summary of Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and other Institutions available for the District.

Professional Nursing in the Home.

Professional Nursing in the Home is carried out by the Local Nursing Association.

Midwives.

Midwives in the District number ten, including three who are employed by the Nursing Association.

CLINIC AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

Name of Centre.	Medical Officer.	Where held.	Nature of Accommodation.	Local Authority	Remarks.
Maternity and Child Welfare	M.O.H.	Central Offices, Roomfield.	Consulting room and Waiting room.	Local Authority	Held weekly. The work of the Centre is chiefly consultative in character, but treatment in minor ailments is carried out.
School Clinic (Medical)	M.O.H.	Central Offices, Roomfield.	Consulting room and Waiting room	Local Authority	The School Clinic is open nine times per week during term time, and arrangements are made, where possible, for treating a limited number during the vacation.
Dental	E. B. Gibson, Esq., L.D.S., Manch.	Central Offices, Roomfield.	Operating room and Waiting room	Local Authority	For the L.E.A. two half days weekly. For the L.S.A. (M. & C.W.) one half day every three months.
Tuberculosis	Dr. G. M. B. Liddle	Masonic Hall.	Waiting room and consulting room on ground floor.	W.R.C.C.	Visits town twice weekly.

There are no Day Nurseries.

The needs of the town for treatment of Venereal Diseases are at present best met by the Clinics in neighbouring towns and cities.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or by the County Council.

1. Tuberculosis.

These are provided by the W.R.C.C., and are situated at Ilkley, Cargate, and elsewhere, beds for children also being reserved at Alton and Leasowe.

2. **Maternity.**—None are provided.

3. **Children.**—None provided.

4. **Fever.**—Forty-six beds.

5. **Small Pox.**—Thirty-six beds.

During the year the Local Authority has taken into its serious consideration the question of providing further hospital accommodation for Todmorden and a joint meeting has taken place between representatives of the Local Sanitary Authority and the Guardians.

It seems evident that under the Ministry, either by the Guardians or by some other Authority, further hospital accommodation will have to be provided in one way or another out of the rates.

In these circumstances it is wise to look ahead and to consider the end for which one should aim, in order that whatever is done at the present time may be in conformity with that objective. Todmorden wants a hospital to which people can get readily, which hospital should receive amongst other things, Maternity cases, cases of accidents, and cases which require nursing which cannot be provided at home, but which nevertheless are not cases of sufficient interest and importance to gain admission to a large local hospital.

At such a hospital tonsils and adenoids might be operated on and external diseases of the eye might be treated. These latter cases often when treated as out-patients linger for a long time before clearing up, but clear up quite readily when once admitted as in-patients to hospitals.

If such a hospital were provided with X-ray, a large amount of time and money would be saved which is now expended by such cases, in travelling to Manchester and elsewhere and it would further be possible to use X-ray for

treatment in cases of ringworm, which are a source of hindrance to educational efficiency.

The ultimate aim should be to co-ordinate in one centre these in-patients and the various out-patients work which is undertaken by the public authorities.

Thus it should be the aim if possible, in one organisation, to treat the in-patients and to look after the out-patients at the School Clinic, the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, and the Tuberculosis Clinic.

At the present time the School Clinic and the Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic are very insufficiently housed in the old Education Offices and the adjoining house which previously was used by the caretaker of Roomfield School, which premises have been adapted for this purpose.

The present arrangements lead here to overcrowding and do not give you an opportunity of carrying out your work in such a way that it can have an educational and a moral influence by teaching those who attend the principles of hygiene.

The Tuberculosis Clinic is held at the Masonic Hall, and the waiting room there is insufficient and militates against whatever teaching may personally be given for the need of fresh air and personal isolation in this condition.

The Necessitous are at present housed under conditions of which I need not speak expressly because I understand it is the urgent wish both of the Ministry and the Guardians that they should be replaced.

Under these circumstances the need for a hospital providing in-patient and out-patient departments cannot be gainsaid and the possibility of unifying and organising the whole of these activities should not be difficult if the various authorities interested can meet together with the object of achieving the greatest good for the people of Todmorden.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, Illegitimate Infants and Homeless Children in the District.—Nil.

Ambulance Facilities—

(a) **For Infectious Cases.**—These are removed in a special Motor Ambulance kept at the Fever Hospitals.

(b) **Non-infectious Cases.**—A Rolls Royce Motor Ambulance is provided for these cases.

PART A. SECTION 6.**LABORATORY WORK.**

Pathological and Bacteriological examinations are carried out at the County Hall, Wakefield.

Supplies of the various outfits most commonly in use are kept at the Central Office and distributed to the Doctors as occasion arises. The following table shows the number of specimens submitted to the County Hall during the year.

Widal—7.

Sputum—23.

Diphtheria—31.

Ringworm—17.

A small amount of work is also carried out for the private practitioners by the pathological departments of local hospitals and by private laboratories.

The above figures include specimens submitted by the Medical Officer of Health from the Maternity and Child Welfare and School Clinics.

During the coming year it is proposed to add to these pathological investigations the bacteriological analysis of milk.

A great deal has been done and is being done at the local farms to ensure that they shall be places where the producer and purveyor of milk may be able to provide a cleaner commodity than was previously possible. It must however be understood that much work yet remains to be done before we reach a condition where the milk supply can be looked upon as quite safe.

The results of these bacteriological examinations if favourable will do a lot to allay the present apprehension one feels as to the condition of the milk supply in Todmorden, and if unfavourable will demonstrate the nature and degree of the problem which you have to face.

At the present time, speaking in general terms, the advantages of dried milk over the liquid product may suitably be brought to the knowledge of the public and I am glad to find that at least one firm have, in Todmorden, dried milk packed in such a way and sold at such a price that one may regard it as a household commodity and not an expensive proprietary food.

I trust that in the near future other firms will be able similarly to put on the market dried milk at a price which will compete favourably with the fluid product.

It is by no means difficult to get a dried milk of exceptional purity up to the standard of Grade A. milk, and such dried milks have this advantage, that they keep out of all proportion better than ordinary milk. Some brands of dried milk can be used for practically all domestic purposes and all brands can be used for cooking purposes.

I feel sure it is only for the public to demand dried milk, for the price of this commodity to be reduced so low as, or even below the price of ordinary milk, and it is to dried milk one looks as solving the present national problem of the milk supply, because firstly, it is itself a safe milk and when produced in sufficient quantities without the need of expensive advertising it can be a cheap milk, and secondly its presence on the market at an economic price will, I feel sure, do more than legislation to urge the milk producers of this country to let the public have a fluid product which is safe.

Sir Robert Jones speaking at a Conference at Bradford urged the necessity for looking upon cases of Bony Consumption as Consumption due to milk, and went so far as to say that in a certain investigation no less than 60% of the cases investigated were reasonably proved to have derived the infection from their milk supply.

Diphtheria Antitoxin is stored in the Health Department and supplied to Local practitioners when required.

PART A. SECTION 7.

List of Adoptive Acts, Bye-laws, and Local Regulations relating to Public Health, in force in the District with date of adoption.

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act, 1889 ; 13th November, 1899.

Infectious Disease (Notification) Act to apply to Anthrax, 25th April, 1917.

Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890 ; 4th February, 1891.

The Public Health Amendments Act, 1890 ; 29th April, 1891.

The Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (certain portions) made applicable for the Borough by Order of the Local Government Board, dated 2nd July, 1910.

30th August, 1899.—Regulations under the Dairies, Cow-sheds and Milk-shops Order of 1885.

By an Order of the Local Government Board, dated 9th June, 1916, the notification of Births Act, 1907 was declared from and after 1st, July, 1916, to take effect in the Borough as if it had been adopted by the Town Council instead of by the County Council.

By an Order of the Local Government Board dated 26th May, 1917, certain trades were declared to be offensive trades within the meaning of Sec. 51 of the Public Health Acts (Amendment Act), 1907.

The provisions of the Milk and Dairies Amendment Act, 1922, dealing with specially designated milk, have not so far influenced Todmorden at all.

SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Closet Accommodation and Conversion—

No. of privies with open middens.—Seventy-six privies in isolated parts of the district, without movable receptacles, but ashes not mixed with excrement.

No. of Pail or Tub closets—In connection with (*a*) houses—1204 ; (*b*) factories and workshops, etc.—135.
Total, 1339.

No. of Privies with covered middens—0.

No. of water closets in connection with houses—3449.
In connection with factories, etc.—503. Total—3952.

No. of waste water closets—395.

No. of privies re-constructed during 1923—(*a*) w.c.'s—0 ; (*b*) other—4 as tub closets.

No. of additional tub closets provided for old property in 1923—(*a*) as w.c.'s—17 ; (*b*) other—0.

No. of closets constructed in 1923 for new houses—(*a*) as w.c.'s—6 ; (*b*) other—0.

PART A. SECTION 7.

SUMMARY OF WORK DONE DURING THE YEAR ENDING
DECEMBER 31st, 1923.

Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	...	3000
1. For nuisances, etc.	...	...	...	...	503
2. Where infectious disease has occurred	...	...	...	...	70
3. Where Phthisis has occurred	...	...	...	...	0
4. Where offensive trades are carried on	...	...	...	...	16
5. Inspections of Workshops	...	...	...	...	71
6. Inspections of Factories	...	...	...	...	45
7. Inspections of Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	61
8. Inspections of Ice Cream Manufactories	...	...	...	...	10
9. Inspections under Shops Acts	...	...	...	...	119
10. Inspections of Cowsheds	...	...	...	...	120
11. Inspections of Canal Boats	...	...	...	...	0
12. Inspections of Common Lodging Houses	...	...	...	...	34
13. Inspections of Slaughterhouses	...	...	...	...	891
14. Inspections of Water Supplies	...	...	...	...	21
15. Inspections of Work in Progress	...	...	...	...	185
16. Inspections of Markets	...	...	...	...	82
17. Inspections under the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909 and 1919	...	...	...	...	248
18. Re-inspections under the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909 and 1919	...	...	...	...	161
19. Re-inspections as to compliance with notices	...	...	...	...	323
20. Inspection of premises used for the preparation of Food for sale	...	...	...	...	20
21. Inspections for River Pollution	...	...	...	...	20
22. No. of houses disinfected after					
(1) infectious disease	...	...	...	...	63
(2) phthisis	...	...	...	...	2
23. No. of schools or departments disinfected	...	...	...	...	1
24. Smoke test applied to drains	...	...	...	...	16
25. Smoke observations taken	...	...	...	...	23
26. Samples of milk taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	18
27. Samples of water taken for analysis	...	...	...	...	8
28. No. of complaints investigated	...	...	...	...	161
29. Cases abated under preliminary notice	...	...	...	...	145
30. Cases abated under statutory notice	...	...	...	...	388

**SUMMARY OF WORKS CARRIED OUT IN COMPLIANCE
WITH NOTICES ETC., DURING THE YEAR ENDING,
31st DECEMBER, 1923.**

House Drainage—

Waste pipes disconnected from house drains	...	42
Waste pipes trapped	... ..	12
House drains repaired, cleansed, etc.	... ..	32
New pipe drains provided	... ..	56
House drains connected to sewer	... ..	207
Drains trapped	... ..	10

Sanitary Conveniences—

Privies converted into tub closets	... ..	4
Tub closets converted into water closets	... ..	32
New water closets provided	... ..	17
New Tub closets provided	... ..	0
Closets repaired, cleansed, etc.	... ..	35
Urinals provided	... ..	0
Urinals repaired, cleansed etc.	... ..	0
Privies discharging into stream converted to water closets...	... ..	1

Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses—

Closets provided with proper supply of water	...	2
Existing sanitary accommodation in factories improved	... ..	1
Conveniences cleansed, repaired, etc.	... ..	3
Factories provided with sufficient and suitable closet accommodation	... ..	2
Workshops provided with sufficient and suitable closet accommodation	... ..	1
Workshops cleansed, limewashed, etc.	... ..	3
Workshops provided with proper drainage	...	1

Houses repaired etc., under Housing, Town Planning, etc., Acts, 1909 and 1919.

On the service of informal notices	... ..	18
By notice under Section 28 of the 1919 Act	... ..	43
No. of houses closed as unfit for habitation	...	2
Houses rendered fit for habitation under Sec. 17	...	1

Cowsheds and Dairies—

Cowsheds provided with improved lighting	...	22
Cowsheds provided with improved ventilation	...	27
Cowsheds provided with improved drainage	...	26
Cowsheds provided with proper water supply	...	4
Cowsheds cleansed, limewashed, etc.	...	1
Shippon Floors relaid	...	14
Shippon Floors and walls put into repair	...	16

Slaughterhouses—

Slaughterhouses cleansed, limewashed, etc.	...	1
Slaughterhouses repaired, etc.	...	0
New Slaughterhouses occupied	...	1

Miscellaneous—

Abatement of nuisance from offensive-fumes	...	1
No. of seizures of unsound food	...	5
No. of galvanised iron dust-bins provided	...	25
No. of houses cleansed, limewashed, etc.	...	6
No. of cases of overcrowding abolished...	...	4
No. of accumulations of manure, refuse, etc. removed	...	7
No. of yards repaired, asphalted, flagged, etc.	...	0
No. of ashpits closed	...	0
No. of removals of animals improperly kept	...	0
Pollutions of water supplies remedied	...	8
Water supplies properly piped	...	0
No. of new sinks provided	...	4

**SUMMARY OF PARTICULARS OF NOTICES SERVED
AND THE RESULTS OF SERVICE, TAKEN FROM
TABLES C AND D FOR YEAR 1923.**

Number of Notices served during the year—

Notices for Abatement of Nuisances—Statutory—33.
Complied with—31 ; Informal—87 ; Complied with—88.

Notices served under Housing, Town Planning, etc. Acts, 1909 and 1919—

Notices served to execute repairs—Statutory (sec. 28)—41 ; Complied with—43 ; Informal—29 ; Complied with—18.

Action under Public Health Acts in cases of houses with minor defects not remediable under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919—

Notices served—Statutory—22 ; Complied with—36 ;
Informal—0 ; Complied with—0.

Action under Section 17 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909—

No. of Closing Orders served (Statutory)—7 ; Complied with—3.

Inspection of places where food is prepared—

See general summary of work done.

ARRANGEMENTS OF DISINFECTION AND DISINFESTATION AND THE EXTENT OF THEIR USE.

The disinfection of houses is carried out by means of sulphur candles, spraying, general cleansing, etc.—For extent of use see general summary.

Action under Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Order—

No. of samples taken by officers of S.A. for analysis under F. and D. Acts—18 ; No. adulterated—0.

No. of samples taken by Officers of S.A. for bacteriological examination—0.

What arrangements for periodical Veterinary Inspection of dairy cows—None.

Any instance of disease attributed to milk in 1923—No.

No. of cowkeepers in district—88 ; No. registered—88.

No. of retail milk sellers who are also cowkeepers—84.

No. who are milk retailers only—2.

Total number of milk sellers registered—86.

Total number of cowsheds—250.

Total number of inspections in 1923—120.

PART A. SECTION 8.**PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.**

Cecil L. Williams, Roomfield, B.Sc., Hons. Lond : L.R.C.P.
M.R.C.S. Eng : D.P.H. Camb : M.R.San.I. : F.R.I.P.H.

The Medical Officer of Health unites in one whole time appointment the duties of Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer.

E. B. Gibson, Roomfield, L.D.S. Manch : Dental Officer to Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic, part time.

Frederick Rogers, A.R.S.I., Sanitary Inspector, whole time.

L. A. Crabtree, A.R.S.I. Assistant Sanitary Inspector whole time.

Mrs. A. N. Gee, Roomfield, C.M.B., A.R.S.I., Borough Nurse, part time.

Miss A. Johnson, Roomfield, C.M.B., S.R.N., Borough Nurse, part time.

Miss J. Hoyle, Roomfield, C.M.B., S.R.N., Borough Nurse, part time.

Miss C. Sutcliffe, Roomfield, Clerk, (duties divided between L.S.A. and L.E.A.)

Miss E. Crowther, A.R.S.I., Clerk, whole time.

PART A. SECTION 9.**HOUSING.****Number of New Houses erected during the year—**

(a) Total	...	...	...	...	...	6
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme	...	...	...	...	...	0

1. Unfit Dwelling Houses. Inspection—

1. Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	264
2. Number of dwelling houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910	...	...	...	...	248
3. Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	11
4. Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	70

2. Remedy of defects without service of formal notices—

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	18
--	----

3. Action under Statutory Powers—

(a) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1919—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	41
2. Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit—	
(a) By owners... ..	43
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	0
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by owners of intention to close	0

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts—

1. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	22
2. Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied—	
(a) By Owners	33
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	3

(c) Proceedings under sections 17 and 18 of the Housing Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909—

1. Number of representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	7
2. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	7
3. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the dwelling houses having been rendered fit	1
4. Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	0
5. Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Order	0

PART B.

Under this heading a statement of any noteworthy conditions prejudicial to the health of the area is required of the Medical Officer.

The Housing conditions have been mentioned earlier in this report as well as the general geographical conditions present throughout the district.

As last year the number of tub closets still to be found in the town are brought to your notice.

PART C.

Noteworthy occurrences affecting the health of the town during the year may be summarised as follows :—

The occurrence of a further case of Small Pox during the year draws attention to the remarks in my last Annual Report on the need for vaccination.

PART D.

No special action has been taken during the year to arouse public interest in the prevention of ill health although from time to time as opportunity has afforded your Medical Officer and his Staff have given special lectures on Public health.

PART E.

The Special Report mentioned in my last Annual Report has been considered but no alteration has taken place in the administration of Sourhall Small Pox Hospital along the lines indicated in that report.

This matter is one which only obtrudes itself from time to time and is likely to be forgotten.

There is no alteration in the circumstances on which my advice was founded and that advice is as important now as it was in 1922.

The danger of having a Small Pox Hospital without medical supervision is by no means inconsiderable.

This year a preliminary Report has been issued to the Health Committee on the question of further hospital accomodation in Todmorden but nothing so far has been done which would make the moment opportune for submitting a detailed report.

The question however is a pressing one. Some solution must be found and the ratepayers will of course have to find at least a part of the money.

In these circumstances I feel sure there is no need for me to stress the importance of the Sanitary Authority keeping this question ever before them.

The desirability of unifying all the health activities in the town is obvious and no Hospital scheme is likely to be, of the highest benefit to the town unless by direct representation on its Governing body, the Council can assure complete co-operation between such a hospital and its own activities in preventive and curative medicine.

PART F.

The desirability of treating Encephalitis Lethargica at the Infectious Fever Hospital is brought to your notice.

This matter has already been discussed by you and I understand the Joint Board governing the Fielden Hospital have not deemed it practicable to accept the onus of receiving such cases.

This question is one of importance. Where not fatal Encephalitis Lethargica is a crippling disease particularly from a mental standpoint and the best of nursing and the very best environment are the chief factors in minimising the ill effects of this disease.

At present there is virtually no alternative accomodation to the Fielden Hospital, and the general standard of housing in Todmorden precludes such cases, if and when they arise, from having a reasonable opportunity of deriving such benefits, which are all too meagre, as medicine is able to offer.

Re-consideration of this question is highly to be desired.

PART F. (contd.)

I wish further in this Annual Report to bring before you the question of transport. The present means available for personal transport leaves much to be desired, and the many and varied duties of your Medical Officer make it difficult for him to avail himself usefully of such service as there is.

The possibility of solving the problem by allowing your Medical Officer to use a private car at a small rate per mile is put before you for your consideration.

I feel sure that the rate per mile could be made sufficiently low to make this scheme compare more than favourably with the present system and that the increased facility of transport would materially extend your Medical Officer's opportunities of serving the Corporation.

